GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1827
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2017
Use of Expired Medicines in Hospitals
Shanavas Shri M. I.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the monitoring mechanism that is being adopted by the Ministry to ensure that expired stocks of medicines and nonsurgical consumable items are kept away from Government hospitals and private hospitals;

(b) whether any Committee in the Government is looking into this aspect and if so, the findings of the Committee on the above;

(c) what mechanism being adopted by the Ministry to ensure use of expired medicines is treated sternly; and

(d) the punitive actions that have been taken in the last three years in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

(a): The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules 1945 thereunder, provide that no drug can be sold or stocked by the licencee after the date of expiration of the potency recorded on its container, label or wrapper, or in violation of any statement or direction recorded on such container, label or wrapper. However, pending withdrawal of expired drugs separate stocking with adequate safeguards is permitted. As per information received from the Government Hospitals under the Central Government, standard operating procedures have been put in place to ensure that no expired medicines can be used.

(b) to (d): While no committee has been set up for the purpose, adequate measures have been put in place to ensure that expired drugs are not sold. The Central and State Licensing Authorities are empowered to take action in case of any violation of the provision of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945. The data about availability/sale of expired drugs not maintained centrally.